

RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday May 6, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109
 Community Program Room

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Roll Call Attendance: Completed by Mee Cheng

District	Charter Commission Member	Present	Excused	Unexcused
1	Ann Maslansky-Takahashi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	Eugene (Gene) Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Lisa M. Laliberte – Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	John Niedfeldt-Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Nancy Haas - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Prince Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Bethany Winkels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	William (Bill) Lindeke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Jazmin Glaser-Kelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Gloria Bogen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang Murphy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Matthew Emerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Jo Emerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Jonathan (Jon) Schumacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Allen Hoppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: Mark McCabe, Director, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department

Also Present: Stacey D’Andrea, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office
 Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk, Ramsey County Manager’s Office

3. Approval of May 6, 2024 Agenda: Motioned by William Kempe, and seconded by Jonathan Schumacher. Unanimously approved by all members present.
4. Approval of the February 5, 2024 Minutes: Motioned by John Niedfeldt-Thomas, and seconded by Jonathan Schumacher. Unanimously approved by all members present.

5. New Business

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Updates on Requested Opinion of the Attorney General
Presented by Rachel Tierney, Attorney, Kennedy & Graven

Rachel provided an overview of the petition and provided an update on the status of the request for an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the number of signatures needed on a petition to amend the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter (See attachment Rachel Tierney – Kennedy and Graven Memo and Attorney General Opinion). Charter Commission members were given an opportunity to discuss the opinion, asked clarifying questions, and discussed next steps.

Rachel's recommendations to the Charter Commission members were:

1. Inform the (Petition) Committee that the petition requesting the proposed Charter amendment must contain at least 15,740 signatures in order for the proposed charter amendment to be presented to voters for approval at an election.

Assuming that the petition is received, the County Manager is the office to review, and signatures have to be validated – registered and reside in Ramsey County. Under state law, the Elections Office has 10 days to verify and confirm signatures.

The Charter Commission will need to hold a special meeting to verify the petition. Assuming there is valid petition, somebody needs to write the ballot language. It can be Rachel Tierney as the outside counsel.

- Component of Ballot language: Title and body language. It needs to describe what the change will be because state law is silent on ballot language, the recommendation is to have Charter Commission and the Board adopt the ballot language.
- Report to county auditor need to be made within 74 days of an election.
Assuming that the petition is received, it has to be adopted by August 23, 2024.

Motion by Bethany Winkels and seconded by William Kempe to accept the outside counsel recommendation of 5% of registered voters (15,740 signatures) of the last previous state general election in 2022. Unanimously approved by all members present.

2. Executive Committee be ready to work on drafting ballot language prior to introduction with Rachel Tierney.
 - a. Acting Executive Committee made up of Chair, Vice Chair, Jazmin Glaser-Kelly, Gloria Bogen, and Jonathan Schumacher.

Motioned by Bill Kempe, seconded by Jonathan Schumacher for the Executive Committee to meet with Rachel Tierney to draft a ballot if a valid petition is received. Unanimously approved by all members present.

- c. Presentation: Ramsey County Parks and Recreation – No Net Loss Charter Provision
Mark McCabe, Director, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation

Mark reviewed current challenges regarding the acquisition and disposal of park property since at the time that the charter provision was amended there was not an established baseline quantity of parkland and therefore there is not a quantity of parkland to peg the “no net loss” of parkland to.

Parks & Recreation would like to establish a baseline acreage of parkland which would ensure that a set quantity of parkland would be preserved for public utilization and to listen to Charter Commission member feedback. Ultimately, in order to establish a baseline quantity of parkland acreage Parks & Recreation would need to bring forward a request for Board Action to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for approval (See Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Presentation – No Net Loss Charter Provision attachment).

- 6. Citizen Input (7:30 p.m.)
 - a. None for input.
- 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Chair Reports – Chair Nancy Haas
 - i. No reports provided.
 - b. Budget Committee Report – Chair Matthew Emerson
 - i. Members: Angie, Bethany, Ann
 - ii. No budget report provided.
 - c. Charter Review Committee Report – Co-Chairs Matthew Emerson and Eugene Nichols
 - i. Members: Bethany, Gloria
 - ii. No Charter Review Report provided.
 - d. Nomination Committee Report – Chair Eugene Nichols
 - i. Members: Ann,
 - ii. No Nomination Committee Report provided.
- 8. Meeting Dates and Tentative Location for 2024
 - a. August 5, 2024 – Rondo Library, Community Room
 - b. October 21, 2024 – Roseville Library, Community Program Room
- 9. Future Agenda Item
 - a. Clarify and discuss sphere of influence of Charter Commission

10. Adjournment

- a. Chair Nancy Haas adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Next Meeting: Monday August 5, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Tentative Location: Rondo Library, Community Room